

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I think we have an incredible nominee in Mr. Wainstein. He has served our government in the Justice Department at the FBI at virtually every level.

I think if my colleague, the Senator from Kentucky, is concerned about this, we ought to have somebody who is confirmed in this role.

And I would acknowledge that there are Members who share his concerns about First Amendment rights, including one of the members of our committee who has worked through Mr. Wainstein and was part of the group that unanimously voted to move him forward.

I am disappointed by the objection, and, unfortunately, both the security of our country and, candidly, the protection of those First Amendment rights is undermined by not having this nominee in place.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask consent to speak for up to 2 minutes on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH DE LEON BHARGAVA

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing the nomination of Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava to be Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Bhargava would oversee offices responsible for recruitment and staffing, procurement, and providing administrative support for HUD employees. She will ensure the Department takes steps to retain the best talent and grow HUD's workforce to meet current and future needs.

Yesterday, I came to Washington on the commercial United flight with Secretary Fudge. She is working hard every day to serve her former constituents. I live in her old congressional district. And to serve this country, she needs qualified employees confirmed like Ms. Bhargava.

For more than 4 years, Ms. Bhargava served as New York State Deputy Secretary for Labor and Workforce, directly responsible for workforce policy and operations affecting more than 9 million New Yorkers. She recognizes that the program continuity depends on strong leadership at the top and meeting the Department's urgent staffing needs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the nomination of Ms. Bhargava to HUD.

NOMINATION OF JOSHUA FROST

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Joshua Frost to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets. While by most accounts Mr. Frost is qualified for this position, I will vote against his nomination out of growing concerns that the Treasury Department has been derelict in its responsibilities to the Senate Finance Committee and its members.

The most recent example of Treasury thumbing its nose at the committee is the unprecedented delay of Secretary Yellen in agreeing to testify before the committee on the President's budget. Typically, the Treasury Secretary agrees to testify before the Finance Committee the week that the President releases his budget. Since 2005, the only other time a Treasury Secretary testified before the committee more than 3 days after the release of the President's budget was Secretary Geithner in 2009, and he appeared just 6 days after the President released his budget.

This year, 37 days have passed since the President unveiled his budget, and Secretary Yellen has yet to agree on a date to come before the committee. Finance Committee members have been informed that the earliest Secretary Yellen will appear before the committee is sometime in June, more than 2 months after the release of the President's budget. The reason given for this unprecedented delay is that Secretary Yellen is too busy to fit the Finance Committee into her schedule. This excuse rings hollow when just last week she was able to find time in her busy schedule to give the keynote address at an event held at the liberal Brookings Institution.

So Secretary Yellen has time in her busy schedule to address the D.C. liberal intelligentsia at the Brookings Institution, but can't find time to answer the questions of elected Members of Congress and their constituents? This is unacceptable, and the Treasury Department must be held to account for shirking its responsibilities. In light of this, I intend to vote against the nomination of Mr. Frost to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets.

VOTE ON FROST NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Frost nomination?

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET),

and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 144 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hassan	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Booker	Hickenlooper	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Cantwell	Kaine	Rounds
Capito	Kelly	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murphy	Warren
Graham	Murray	Whitehouse
Hagerty	Ossoff	Wyden

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Bennet	Shelby
Shaheen	Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 674, Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination